

BULLETIN

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Vol. 1, No. 4

NEW YORK CITY

October 15, 1922

"He who gives a child a treat,
Makes joy-bells ring in heaven's street,
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom Come,
And she who gives a baby birth;
Brings Saviour Christ again to earth;
For life is joy, and mine is true,
And body's precious earth and rook."

JOHN MASEFIELD.

TO MEMBERS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Child Welfare League of America met at the Chicago Beach Hotel, Chicago, October 5th and 6th, for the purpose of evaluating the work of the past year and giving it direction for the immediate future. The following members attended: Miss Curry, presiding, Miss Berolzheimer, Miss Crosby, Mr. Ewers, Mr. Hawk, Dr. Knight, Judge Murphy, Miss Ralph, Mrs. Steedman, Mr. Stoneman, Mr. Shirk, Dr. Thurston, Mr. Weston, Mrs. Woolley and Mr. Carstens.

After the Director had read his annual report and it was discussed and accepted, the Committee resolved itself into sub-committees, and the first afternoon was devoted entirely to their work.

The evening of October 5th and two sessions of October 6th were devoted to the discussion of these Committee reports, of which the most important were the reports of the Committee on Admission to Membership and of the Committee on Standards of Membership, which are given below:

Standards for Organizations Seeking Admission to Full Membership

1. The applicant should be a case working agency or department devoted primarily to child-caring work.

2. (a) Case work attempted should be in definite relation to the needs of the community it plans to serve.

(b) Case work records covering all phases of service attempted should be adequate.

3. If a private agency, it should have a responsible working Board of Directors, meeting at least quarterly, and operating through active committees.

4. It should have a salaried, full time executive, with a staff related in number and efficiency to the work attempted.

5. Its finances should be audited at least annually by recognized public accountants.

6. All organizations not fulfilling the above requirements may seek admission as associate members.

Standards of Membership

1. A private agency member should have a responsible, working Board of Directors, meeting at least quarterly, and operating through active committees.

2. There should be a full time, paid executive and sufficient number of assistants to carry on the work in accordance with the standards herein set forth.

3. (a) There should be a financial system providing for an economical and efficient method of raising funds.

(b) There should be a proper accounting for all receipts, ratifying of all expenditures and an annual audit by a recognized public accountant.

(c) To as great an extent as possible, persons doing case work in the field should be relieved of responsibility for raising money.

(d) Persons who combine case work with financial work should be chosen particularly from the standpoint of special training and fitness of social work.

4. (a) A member agency should accept responsibility for supplying or promoting the following types of service in its territory unless these are already being adequately performed by other agencies:

(1) Assistance—financial, supervisory and protective—to children in their own homes.

(2) Temporary boarding of children for parents, looking toward a restoration of the children and reconstruction of the family life.

(3) Permanent care of children to be placed out in boarding, free, wage and adoption homes.

(b) When other agencies in the field are adequately performing any one of the above functions, it should be the policy of a member agency of the League so to co-ordinate its work with that of other agencies as to prevent duplication of functions and also to insure proper care for all children in need of service.

5. (a) No child should be received by permanent commitment or surrender until every effort has been made to provide suitably for the child in his own home or with his own kin, or by temporary care looking to the reconstruction of his family.

(b) An agency receiving a child for permanent or temporary care should assume full re-

sponsibility for the health, education and general welfare of the child during minority unless he is transferred to a responsible relative or agency or legally adopted.

6. An agency which makes an investigation or gives service on behalf of a child should keep a record showing the circumstances under which the child was brought to the attention of the agency, the record of his family and personal history, the service rendered and the results.

7. A member agency should furnish to its Board of Directors an annual report of the finances and of the social work done, and should make a report to the Child Welfare League of America, using forms furnished by the League, if requested.

The following new agencies were accepted into membership:

ALABAMA. Child Welfare Department, Montgomery. Mrs. L. B. Bush, Director.

MICHIGAN. St. Vincent de Paul Society, Child-Caring Department, 611 McDougall Avenue, Detroit. James Fitzgerald, Executive Secretary.

WISCONSIN. Children's Home Society of Wisconsin, 727 M. and M. Bank Bldg., Milwaukee. Dr. Warren B. Hill, Acting Superintendent.

CANADA. Bureau of Child Protection, Regina, Saskatchewan. F. J. Reynolds, Commissioner.

The limitations on the various kinds of service these members will perform will be announced at a later date.

The Executive Committee also authorized the acceptance of the offer made by the Society of German Child Guardianship, located in Frankfurt-on-the-Main, for rendering reciprocal service in the investigation of case problems. It is possible under this arrangement for member agencies to have discreet inquiries made in connection with their case work throughout Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. Sometimes inquiries can also be made in other countries of Europe.

Members are requested to send a statement of the case problem to this office, and are cautioned to give adequate detail, to make the request specific, and to assure themselves, after consulting the Atlas, that the location has been definitely determined as far as this can be done at a distance. This office will undertake to forward such inquiries at the earliest possible moment and transmit the reply.

FATHER

By Angelo Patri

Author of "A Schoolmaster in the Great City,"
Principal Public School 45, The Bronx.

(From the New York Evening Post, October 10, 1922).

Wherever children are talking one hears "My mothers says," and very rarely "My father says." In most families the children are left to

their mother. And quite right. But father should be counted in, too.

Father goes off to work in the morning and is gone all day, while mother says close to the home and the children. When father comes home he is tired. He wants his supper and he wants to rest while he reads the newspaper. And that is quite right and as it should be.

Father reads and rests while the children do their home lessons. The house is quiet save for an occasional call from across the hall where some one wants to know nine times eight. Soon it will be time to go to bed. Father lays down his paper and stretches himself.

That's the signal for the children to gather about father and tell him all the good things that happened that day. And father listens and laughs and says, "Well, now you are coming on. Got a 'perfect' today? That's the boy. Never mind, sister. Nine isn't so bad. You'll get ten tomorrow."

"Think the English teacher is cranky, eh? Wait a while. Guess you'll find him all right. Once, when I was your age, I had a teacher that I thought didn't like me because he always marked my papers hard. Marked everything—every little thing—even when I left off a period. I used to wish he would lose his specs. And then——"

The room is so still now you can hear the breath of the listening youngsters coming and going, so intently they listen. "So, you see, he liked me after all and I have the medal upstairs and I'll show it to you."

And one jumps on his shoulder and the other swings on his hand as he trudges up the stairs to show them his keepsakes.

These children say "My father" as well as "My mother." And say it with such love and confidence. Father means a host in himself.

"I always wished for a father," sighed a college girl. "Oh, yes, my father is alive, but, you know, he was always too busy to allow us to know him or to allow him to have much in common with us. He left us to mother. I envy the girls who have real fathers who father them."

How about it father? Too busy? Too what? You don't know what you are missing. You don't realize the brightening and freshening influence the little fellows will have on you. You don't know what an electric thrill a small grimy paw slipped into yours as you may come up the walk in the evening can send up your spine nor the lift it will give your heart.

You're missing the best part of your life if you miss your growing children. Father the children.

(Copyright 1922, By Angelo Patri)

In a recent editorial of the Journal of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, Dean John H. Wigmore suggests that it may be well to reconsider the penal methods of the Juvenile Court towards parents contributing to the delinquency of their children. If the efficiency of the Juvenile Court has been obstructed

by the recent decision of the Federal Supreme Court in *U. S. vs. Moreland*, which holds that where a parent is sentenceable to a workhouse at hard labor under the Juvenile Court Act, an indictment by Grand Jury is necessary, "why not, instead of sentencing the lazy parent to a penal farm, decree him to go to work, put him under a recognizance to turn over a share of his wages to support the children, and authorize garnishee process upon his employer? To reach the obstinate idler, why not declare him to be in contempt of court for not obeying its order to work, and place him in the workhouse until he is willing to go to work?"

"We do not know whether this is practically likely to attain the point in all cases; experience alone could reveal this. But we do believe that it is more consonant with the 'parens patriae' spirit, which is the fundamental feature of the modern juvenile court. And we also believe that it would serve to remove, in law, the obstruction that threatens to block the expansion of juvenile court methods in their dealings with parents and other adults.

"We have long believed that the juvenile court methods are destined to become, by expansion, the methods of the future in dealing with certain classes of adult delinquencies. And we have also foreseen that the obstacle to this was sure to be in the traditional limitations of criminal procedure; for these limitations must apply in all courts, whatever their name. The only way to avoid them is to eliminate the penal features of juvenile court methods as to adults. Why not face this future aspect now? Why not harmonize the entire juvenile court practice with itself? Why not attempt to use the compulsory methods of the chancellor throughout, and thus make possible in experience the application of the methods of the juvenile court to a larger field?"

Welfare Agencies to Cooperate in Voluntary Control of Motion Pictures

Efforts toward a voluntary solution of the motion-picture censorship problem have crystallized in a new organization, representing all types of welfare and educational work, to promote cooperation between the producers and the public who are interested in the improvement of the films. This came about as a result of a meeting called by Mr. Will H. Hays, President of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America. A committee representing children's agencies, recreational work, Boys and Girls Scouts, and religious and educational organizations has been appointed. Its members will aid in establishing and maintaining the highest possible moral and artistic standards in motion-picture production, and in developing the educational as well as entertainment value and general usefulness of pictures. Miss Curry, president of the League, has accepted membership on this committee.

The New York County Chapter of the American Red Cross has recently issued a report of the **Examination of Pre-School Age Children**, which was made in the summer of 1921. This report makes the following conclusions and recommendations:

"1. Children entering school for the first time show an amazingly wide variability in native capacity. The ability ranges from below three years to nearly eight. Approximately 25 per cent. of kindergarten children are below the four year level and 30 per cent. of first grade children are below the five year level.

2. The average intelligence quotient for these children is almost ten per cent. below the standard as determined by Terman.

3. The intelligence quotient is an excellent basis for the first classification where the children are practically the same age but further study of a child should take place to determine the existence of special abilities and aptitudes or of special disabilities.

4. Shy, bashful, or apprehensive children should be the subject of special care and study in order to avoid the development of further difficulties.

5. Difficulties to be overcome in the examination of entrants include the timidity of the child, bashfulness or shyness, deficiency in the language of the tests and lack of co-operation.

6. The same psychological measurement may be used with different racial groups and still be a valid means of making the preliminary classification.

7. Classes organized on the basis of intellectual ability will seek to develop the potential genius at the same time that they conserve and train every power of the other children.

8. The economic loss through "repeaters" in our school system is a heavy burden on the community. By this scheme of special classification and modified curriculum such useless expenditures will be greatly reduced.

9. To meet the needs of the various groups of children a modification of the present curriculum might be devised—richer and more diverse for the brighter and with greater opportunity for motor training for the less bright.

10. The interest of principals and teachers in the progress of the children is exceptionally fine and their cooperation in carrying on this experiment warrants our warmest expressions of appreciation.

11. Chief among the misfortunes of the present system are the discontent and mental lassitude of the bright child, and the habits of failure and loss of confidence of those who are less well endowed."

CHILD WELFARE NEWS

Widow's Pensions in California

California. "The new California school law provides that working permits may be given children of 14 years of age, provided they have finished the eighth grade and there is evidence

of need. The working permits may be given at 15 years of age provided the seventh grade has been accomplished, and in this case the permit is given at the discretion of the teacher and the Board of Education whether there is need or not. All children who have not completed the High School and who are not 18 years of age, are obliged to attend Part Time Day School for four hours a week. The result as far as the Pension Bureau problem is concerned is that the period of dependency of the families is increased. The intent is that future dependency shall be decreased by better equipping this generation both physically and mentally."

Massachusetts. A course of lectures on the mental health of children is being given at Boston University under the auspices of the Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene. The first lecture was attended by teachers, social workers, nurses and mothers, who found it of practical value.

New York. In the July number of the Journal of Delinquency, Mr. Armand Wyle, formerly Superintendent of the Jewish Orphans' Home, Rochester, gives a study of "Atypical Children in Orphanages." Attached to this is a symposium of letters from leaders in child welfare work on the whole subject. The general conclusion one gets from this study is that the institution should be primarily for the atypical child and that normal children should be placed in family homes.

Philippine Island. The first Annual Report of the Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner for the year 1921 has been published. The infant death rate is comparatively high. In Manila it was 234.16 per thousand births. This is a very considerable reduction since 1912, when it was 388.73. The rate in the provinces is very much lower. Infant welfare work is therefore an important part of the service rendered.

The Gota de Leche (drop of milk), which is an important infant welfare institution in most of the South American countries on the Pacific Coast has also been established in the Philippines. Under its auspices fresh cow's milk, scientifically prepared, is furnished to children requiring artificial feeding, and consultations for mothers on the proper care of babies are held.

In the care of dependent children "the placing out agent has devoted much time in securing desirable foster homes for the orphans. The task was a difficult one, because as a rule families would only take in orphans who were not related to them, under the basis of exploitation; that is, when orphans were made to stay as servants. While, of course, it was aimed to interest certain families to take in their homes some Government wards, no party was ever made a guardian of a Government ward without securing assurance that the child would be treated as a member of the family."

The Commissioner's Office issues a "Welfare

Courier" which contains interesting, spicy and helpful suggestions and messages to the various children's organizations in the Islands.

India A Bill has recently been introduced in the legislative assembly, with a view to raising the age of consent of a married girl from 12 to 14. Its advocates insist that premature child-bearing which is greatly responsible for the physical degeneration of the Indian people will check the high mortality of young mothers and their weak and undeveloped children.

LIBRARY LIST NO. 13

Pamphlets

1. The Practical Value of Scientific Study of Juvenile Delinquents. By Wm. Healy, M. D., Director Judge Baker Foundation, Boston.

This is Bureau Publication No. 96 of the Children's Bureau, Washington. It should be read by all who are interested in the recent development of psychiatric and personality study.

2. County Organization for Child Care and Protection.

This is Bureau Publication No. 107 of the Children's Bureau, Washington.

It contains a valuable introduction on the development of county social work by Miss Emma O. Lundberg of the Bureau, and special studies of developments of Child Welfare Boards, Bureaus or Departments; in Minnesota by Wm. W. Hodson, Director Children's Bureau, State Board of Control; North Carolina by Roland F. Beasley, former Commissioner of Public Welfare; California, by Mrs. Cornelia McKinne Stanwood, Secretary, State Board of Charities and Corrections; New Jersey, by Mrs. Cornelia H. Meytrott, Department of Institutions and Agencies; New York, by Miss H. Ida Curry, State Charities Aid Association and Miss Ruth Taylor, Westchester County Department of Child Welfare.

3. The Legal Aspect of the Juvenile Court.

By Bernard Flexner and Reuben Oppenheimer. This is Bureau Publication No. 99 of the Children's Bureau, Washington. Miss Abbott in her letter of transmittal says, "Mr. Flexner is a distinguished lawyer who has brought not only legal skill but also great interest in the care of children to his years of study of the juvenile court movement."

4. A Study of Personality of Defectives with a Social Rating Scale. By S. D. Porteus.

This is one of the publications of the Training School at Vineland, New Jersey, in their Department of Research.

5. The American Child. August, 1922.

This issue is devoted particularly to a study of the street trades in Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Boston and Chicago. It also contains a model street trades law, drawn up by Wiley H. Swift of the National Child Labor Committee.

C. C. CARSTENS, Director.